Disney+

Disneynature

SEA LIONS OF THE GALAPAGOS

PRODUCTION BRIEF

In the heart of the Pacific Ocean lies a magical cluster of islands, home to a unique collection of castaways found nowhere else on earth. Disneynature's "Sea Lions of the Galapagos" dives underwater with Leo, a handsome sea lion pup who's learning how to navigate life alongside his mother. "It was crucial for our story that Leo was an adventurer, and when the team encountered one particular pup, we knew we had a star," says director Hugh Wilson. "Regularly supplied with lots of milk by his devoted mum, Luna, Leo was full of energy and keen to make his mark on the world. Full of character from day one, he was constantly up to no good—getting into sticky situations."

Brendan Fraser lends his voice to the production. “Working with Brendan was an honor, and he delivered a great performance with the narration,” says Wilson. “He was able to convey a range of emotions from high-stakes drama and important factual content to intimate comedic moments. He was particularly strong in regard to the comedy—a crucial ingredient for Disneynature films—and it was great to see him really lean into those moments.”

Following swimming lessons, fishing expeditions and some growing up, Leo eventually leaves his mother’s colony to find his own home—male sea lions must fight to earn the best spots, and only the strongest will become beachmasters. “Beachmasters rule all the female sea lions on the beach and father all of the pups,” says co-director Keith Scholey. “They are the kings.”

Leo’s lifelong quest is fraught with challenges and filled with new encounters with an array of creatures, from marine iguanas and racer snakes to yellow fin tuna and huge Galapagos sharks. The archipelago is Leo’s playground—overland and underwater—but he must stay vigilant to find his place in the world. “Sea lions are very appealing, have strong personalities and their life story is epic,” says Scholey. “They are the ‘Lion Kings’ of the sea—perfect for Disneynature.”

Disneynature films are an extension of Walt Disney’s pioneering wildlife documentary filmmaking. Disney produced 13 True Life Adventure motion pictures between 1948 and 1960, including “Seal Island” (1948), “Beaver Valley” (1950), “The Living Desert” (1953) and “Jungle Cat” (1958). The films earned eight Academy Awards®. The signature storytelling introduced by the True-Life Adventure films continues in Disneynature’s films with an entertaining and engaging blend of humor, knowledge and stunning visuals. “The movies were replayed on ‘Wonderful World of Color’ when I was a kid—I fell in love with animals because of them,” says producer Roy Conli, who adds that sea lions the perfect candidates for a Disneynature film. “Their eyes are phenomenal—you can almost see their thought processes, which is great for the kind of films we make. We look for a kind of sentience in the animals that allows a narrative story to unfold. Sea lions are also incredibly beautiful; they’re amazing in the water—the dichotomy between them in water and on land is phenomenal. It brings a sense of entertainment and a sense of wonder.”

Adds Wilson, “In addition to their innate curiosity, sea lions have a healthy appetite for fun and mischief, and love nothing more than messing with the other animals they come across,” Wilson continues. “As one scientist explained to me, ‘sea lions are friends with everyone, but not everyone is friends with them!’

"SEA LIONS OF THE GALAPAGOS" BY THE NUMBERS

- Located **600 miles** off the west coast of Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands have a total land mass of nearly **3,100 square miles**.
- The Galapagos Islands are home to as many as **50,000 sea lions.**
- These sea lions, believed to have descended from populations along the coast of North America, arrived in the archipelago **two to three million years ago**.
- The Galapagos Islands consist of **13 main islands, six smaller islands** and a host of islets and rocks.
- The locale is among the most volcanically active areas in the world—**21 volcanoes** can be found across the islands.
- "Sea Lions of the Galapagos" had **273 shooting days** and roughly **80 crew members** who worked in the field at different times.
- Filming headquarters was on board the Danubio Azul—an **81-foot-long liveaboard dive boat** that housed the filmmakers and their bounty of equipment.
- The crew visited **21 different locations** on **10 different islands.**
- Filmmakers spent roughly **1,800 hours underwater.**
- When sea lions in the Galapagos are born, they measure about **2.5 feet long** and weigh around **13 pounds**. They're able to walk within **30 minutes**.
- Adult male sea lions in the Galapagos reach up to **8.2 feet in length**, weighing in around **550 pounds**.
- Galapagos sea lions are great divers, reaching depths up to **656 feet** (California sea lions dive between **100-300 feet** deep).

"Both pups and adults are extremely playful, and during the filming, we witnessed countless sea lion games invented before our eyes," Wilson continues. "You can't help but marvel in their creativity and dexterity underwater, even if sometimes our filming equipment was stolen as part of the game!"

Conli, who joined Walt Disney Animation Studios in 1993, produced films like "Tangled" and the Oscar®-winning "Big Hero 6." His dual role with Disneynature helps amplify the storytelling in the new adventures. "We bring all of our films in front of our Story Trust," he says. "We started doing that with Disneynature films because we wanted to get that great narrative quality and family experience. I love how the wildlife filmmakers interact with the animation team."

Directed by Hugh Wilson, co-directed by Keith Scholey, and produced by Wilson, Scholey and Roy Conli, the film features principal photography by Richard Wollocombe and Paul D. Stewart. Tara Knowles is the production manager. Edited by Andy Netley, it features music by Raphaelle Thibaut, and original story by Wollocombe, Wilson and Scholey, with narration written by David Fowler. "Sea Lions of the Galapagos" launches exclusively on Disney+ on April 22, 2025.

A DEEP DIVE WITH SEA LIONS
Filmmakers Take Knowledge and Experience to Craft Authentic Story

Disneynature called on veteran wildlife filmmakers from Silverback Films to bring "Sea Lions of the Galapagos" to life. According to director Hugh Wilson, their research revealed some key behaviors they hoped to capture—but they knew there were surprises in store. "While it's important to have some key behavioral set pieces lined up for the film—the tuna hunt, surfing, shark chasing—we were also keen to leave space for spontaneity," he says. "Some of the best sequences in the film were totally unscripted and simply arose from the team being alert to their surroundings."

The story chronicles Leo's life as he grows from a young pup, through adolescence and into adulthood. Filmmakers captured phenomenal imagery that represent those key stages of Leo's life from the minute he enters the world. Co-director Keith Scholey found that some of the in-between moments speak the loudest, for example "a very detailed picture of what it's like being a small pup when his mother must leave him alone when she goes to get food."

According to Scholey, the production—which came together in just 18 months—features epic imagery that span 10 islands of the Galapagos—and the water that connects them. "Underwater photography is highly specialized with the need to understand the diving and the photographic needs," he says. "The key is finding the top underwater cinematographers and world-class support teams. We had both on this production."

Adds Wilson, "Filming out in the Galapagos Islands is challenging from both a logistical and a political perspective, and in order to deliver this hugely ambitious film, I knew one person in particular would be crucial to our success: Richard Wollocombe is a world-class cinematographer based out in the Galapagos Islands, and his knowledge and insight into the region is unmatched. In addition to his extensive location experience, his proven track record of filming responsibly in the islands has earned him the deep trust of the Galapagos National Park. Having Richard on our side helped us design an efficient filming schedule, while adhering to the strict filming protocols necessary to protect the pristine wilderness areas."

The field team included 80 crew members who rotated onto the Danubio Azul liveaboard dive boat that served as production headquarters for the shoot. Says Wilson, "Thanks to skipper Wilson Taipe and his team, this 80-foot liveaboard dive boat was a key part of our success, supporting both land and underwater teams simultaneously, and helping us safely access all the best sites, at the best possible moments. Most importantly the boat crew kept us well fed and watered throughout, with a range of Ecuadorian culinary delights!"

The crew juggled a variety of locales, shooting on land, underwater and in the sky, capturing breathtaking footage of La Cumbre volcano erupting given a moment's notice of the always possible but entirely unpredictable event. "On more standard days, we would have an early wakeup call at 5 a.m.," says Wilson. "Often the best filming light is first thing, so the land teams were always eager to get set up at dawn. The underwater team sometimes had a slightly longer lie in, as they need the sun to be slightly higher in the sky before it is bright enough to film underwater. The equatorial sun can be punishing and after a full morning exposed to the elements, getting back into the air-conditioned boat for a couple of hours in the middle of the day was always a welcome break.

“Depending on the subject matter, some days could be spent waiting endlessly for the action to kick off, such as the tuna hunt,” continues Wilson. “Other days could be spent feeling seasick out in the open ocean on the lookout for fleeting bait-ball events. The one thing that never changes is that in our profession, it is crucial to never lose faith—every day could be the one when it all comes together and so you must always set out each day full of energy and optimism, ready for anything!”

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

- Local crew members including guides **Simone Villamar** and **Andy Torres** were crucial in pinpointing when and where specific sea lion behaviors might be happening.
- Safety divers **Javier Mahauad** and **Juan Carlos Mendoza** kept the team safe in intense underwater conditions.
- The camera team included **Paul Stuart**, as well as **Ewan Donnachie** and **Tom Beldam** (gimbal and GSS), **Shelton Du Preez** and **Adrian Cabello** (drone), and **David Reichert, Jeff Hester** and **Richard Wollocombe** (principal underwater cinematographers).
- **Claudia Molina** ran logistics. **Thomas Espinosa** was the rope-access expert. **Joe Tuck** and **Ellie de Cent** were field producers. **Andy Netley** edited the film.
- **Tara Knowles** was production manager with assistance from **Chris Rowe** and **Nicole Hobart**.

One of the most entertaining sequences in the film involves a dramatic hunting scene featuring several sea lions working together to capture yellow fin tuna. Says Wilson, “This behavior is unique for a range of reasons, and perfectly encapsulates the intelligence, skill and bravery of Galapagos sea lions. This is the only place in the world this spectacle can be witnessed, and to take down the huge yellow fin tuna, the sea lions need to work together, cooperatively herding the tuna from the open ocean into a very specific network of coves.

“In order to capture every angle of the intricate hunting strategy, the filming team had to deploy a range of camera techniques, including long lens, drone, underwater and remote set ups—a bit like a high-stakes sporting event,” continues Wilson. “We knew roughly where the showdown would take place, but having everything set up and ready to go at the right moment was quite nerve-wracking. Weeks of waiting around would ultimately all come down to about 30 minutes of intense, high-speed action.”

The location of “Sea Lions of the Galapagos” provided a magical setting for the film-makers, who visited 21 different locations throughout the archipelago. Says producer Roy Conli, “ I think the wonder of the Galapagos is something that I always have been taken with. As a kid, I read about the Galapagos and the amazing animals that have literally been isolated there for millions of years. Being able to tell this story about Leo growing up in that environment among all of the creatures who live alongside him has been really terrific.”

THE SOUNDS OF SEA LIONS
Filmmakers Call on Raphaelle Thibaut to Create Moving Score

Leo's coming-of-age story is brought to life with extraordinary cinematography, dynamic narration and music that highlights and elevates the adventure. Says co-director and producer Keith Scholey, "The score for Disneynature's is crucial because it needs to support the emotions of the film that vary from intimacy to humor—it's also epic. Raphaelle Thibaut composed, in my opinion, the perfect score."

Thibaut approached the film as if it were a traditional big-screen adventure. "My goal was to create an immersive, organic sound that felt like an extension of the environment," she says. "I focused on contrasts—the harsh, rocky terrain against the mesmerizing yet freezing underwater world, playfulness versus peril, intimacy versus grandeur. Humor was also essential, given the film's many lighthearted moments. Musically, I balanced sweeping orchestral themes with delicate textures, incorporating unique instruments and motifs to make 'Sea Lions of the Galapagos' feel rich and distinctive."

Thibaut, who's behind the score in National Geographic's series "Secrets of the Whales," was inspired by Leo's journey. "'Sea Lions of the Galapagos' is a story of resilience, playfulness and survival, seen through the eyes of Leo as he navigates the challenges of growing up in one of the most unique ecosystems on Earth. I believed the score had to play a crucial role in capturing the emotional depth of his journey—whether it's the warmth of his bond with his mother, the humor in his playful misadventures, the dangers he faces, or the awe-inspiring beauty of the Galapagos. I think we've created a score that shifts dynamically between sweeping, cinematic moments and more intimate, character-driven cues, helping to shape the film's heart and energy."

The composer created a theme for Leo that evolves as he does. Early in the film, it's "playful, light and curious—often carried by woodwinds and delicate instrumentation to highlight his innocence," she says. "In the later stages, it carries more depth and a sense of growth,

reflecting his increasing independence. What I find most interesting is that this evolution happened almost unconsciously—it emerged naturally through the creative flow. The theme never fully loses its warmth and playfulness, mirroring not just Leo's spirit but also the lively and social nature of sea lions as a species."

Embracing the film's stunning Galapagos Islands setting, Thibaut incorporated South American sounds. "One key element was the ocarina, a wind instrument found in the Galapagos, which I used for Leo's humorous and endearing moments," she says. "I also incorporated the charango, ronroco and quena, along with subtle percussion textures inspired by Andean and coastal rhythms. These elements were carefully blended with the orchestral palette to create a natural, organic feel that connects the film to its setting."

The score was recorded at Abbey Road Studios in London with a 52-piece orchestra. "There's something magical about hearing an orchestra bring the score to life in such an iconic space," says Thibaut, who decided to pursue a career in music after attending an event at Abbey Road. "The musicians brought so much nuance to the performance, and the acoustics of Studio 2 added a richness and warmth that elevated everything.

"What always surprises me in these sessions is how other musicians bring unexpected layers to the music," she continues. "Until that moment, composing is such a solitary process, but suddenly, other human beings add their own soul, making the music richer in ways I couldn't have predicted. That's the magic of collaboration—letting go and allowing something even more alive to emerge."

CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

In celebration of Disneynature's Sea Lions of the Galapagos, DCF is supporting **Conservation International** to connect more than 1,500 Galapagos youth with nature through engaging, hands-on activities and educational content that fosters a deep understanding of marine ecosystems and the impact of plastic pollution. Through programs offered in collaboration with local organizations including Frente Insular, Galapagos Infinito and others, students will have opportunities to expand their ocean literacy learning through digital platforms and in-person workshops, take snorkeling and kayaking field trips to explore the beauty of the Galapagos, participate in coastal-clean ups with their communities, and support youth-led pollution monitoring programs to contribute to local conservation efforts. These programs will help youth learn about and experience conservation first-hand, develop environmental stewardship habits in their daily lives, and ultimately help reduce plastic pollution and marine debris and their negative impacts on marine species like sea lions, sea turtles, mantas, sharks, seabirds, marine iguanas, and lava lizards.

GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH "SEA LIONS" TEAM

Companion Film Documents the Journey of the Filmmaking Team, the World of the Galapagos and the People Dedicated to Protecting the Special Place

Disneynature's "Guardians of the Galapagos" goes behind the scenes with the crew of "Sea Lions of the Galapagos" to showcase not just the production of a film, but the world that inspired it. In their quest to relay the story of a young sea lion pup named Leo, the Disneynature team battles seasickness, searing heat and extreme diving conditions. Their efforts, however, are rewarded, capturing rarely seen sea lion behaviors—from playful pups and surfing teenagers to adult bulls hunting gigantic yellowfin tuna.

"'Guardians of the Galapagos' is a family-friendly voyage of discovery around a magical group of islands," says director Tash Filer. "Viewers can expect to meet weird and wonderful animals, experience the behind-the-scenes adventures of a natural history film crew, and feel inspired by the extraordinary efforts of the local community to preserve the Galapagos for the next generation."

The production comes together with the help of expert narration from Blair Underwood. "The narration records, under the leadership of Disneynature producer Roy Conli, were genuinely one of the highlights of the project for me," says Filer. "To be able to work with such a talented narrator was a real privilege. Blair's voice is like velvet: deep and resonant. 'Guardians of the Galapagos' carries viewers on an emotional journey, and Blair had the vocal range and sensitivity to convey it all. He's also a kind and genuine person who was a pleasure to work with."

Global challenges threaten the archipelago, including invasive species, pollution, illegal fishing and increasingly frequent El Niño events. The film spotlights the growing community of champions—the true Guardians of the Galapagos—who work to protect the islands, supporting environmental campaigns, cleaning beaches, restoring corals and helping local children experience this magical place.

Says producer Keith Scholey, "The Galapagos has unique creatures. It is also pristine, which is very rare in today's world. The islands were uninhabited until very recently. The unique community of wildlife that live there has no fear of humans. The islands are also scenically spectacular and the waters that surround them are some of the richest in the world."

Roughly 97 percent of the Galapagos are designated as a national park, though its value to the world is largely underestimated. Home to Galapagos penguins, various shark species and giant oceanic manta rays, the waters surrounding the islands are protected as a marine reserve. "The ecosystem there is totally irreplaceable, and if certain endemic species are lost, then they become extinct—there is no back up," says producer Hugh Wilson. "We are also

only just beginning to understand how crucial these islands are for migratory species, who travel across the ocean dependent on key stepping stones like this, be it for important feeding zones, or for socializing or breeding. While the islands might seem remote and disconnected, their influence spreads far beyond their immediate neighborhood."

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According to Conli, the work done to preserve the archipelago exemplifies how successful community efforts can be. "The way the people of the Galapagos have responded to the issues that are plaguing not only their immediate area but the whole planet is extraordinary—

they're so devoted to protecting the creatures that live there while also educating the next generation to appreciate and continue to care for the environment for years to come."

Directed by Tash Filer and produced by Filer, Keith Scholey, Hugh Wilson and Roy Conli, "Guardians of the Galapagos" begins streaming alongside "Sea Lions of the Galapagos" on Disney+ on April 22, 2025.

BIOGRAPHIES

BRENDAN FRASER (Narrated by) is an Academy Award® winner whose nuanced performances and compelling role choices have earned widespread acclaim. Fraser starred in Darren Aronofsky's, "The Whale," which premiered in December 2022 and earned him several awards including his first Academy Award for best actor in a leading role, a Critics Choice Movie Award, SAG Award®, AACTA International Award, Satellite Award, and nominations for a BAFTA Award, and Gotham Independent Film Award.

Fraser's project "Pressure," in which he will portray Dwight D. Eisenhower, has a release date that is still to be announced. Also in the works, Fraser will star in filmmaker Hikari's "Rental Family," best known for her work on "Beef." He will also star in "Sacrifice," directed by Romain Gavras alongside Chris Evans, Anya Taylor-Joy and Salma Kayek.

Other recent works for Fraser include Steven Soderbergh's "No Sudden Move" for HBOMax, as well as "Doom Patrol," the hit HBOMax/DC Entertainment series where he stars as Cliff Steele and is the voice of Robotman. He can also be seen in "Line of Descent," a crime narrative that follows the relationship between a mafia family and an undercover officer; "The Secret of Karma"; "The Poison Rose"; "Trust," an FX anthology series, starring opposite Donald Sutherland and Hilary Swank; and "Condor," where he played Nathan Flower, an unstable yet efficient central cog in an unholy alliance between the private military company that employs him and the CIA.

Other credits include the action-comedy film "Brothers," directed by Max Barbakow, MartinScorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon," alongside Leonardo DiCaprio and Lily Gladstone, the third season of Showtime's award-winning TV show "The Affair," where he played Gunther, a menacing security guard in the prison that Noah Solloway (Dominic West) was incarcerated in, and "The Field," a classic crime narrative that merges a dysfunctional, mafia family at war with each other as an undercover officer plots their downfall.

Fraser played an arms dealer in this independent feature. He was seen in the A&E mini-series, "Texas Rising," alongside Bill Paxton, Ray Liotta, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, and Olivier Martinez. Fraser previously starred in the feature, "Gimme Shelter," opposite Rosario Dawson and Vanessa Hudgens; voiced characters in two animated films as Scorch Supernova in The Weinstein Company's "Escape from Planet Earth"; Open Road Films' "The Nut Job," with Will Arnett and Katherine Heigl; and "Whole Lotta Sole," a heist comedy directed by Terry George in which Brendan starred and served as executive producer. In 2008, Fraser had an incredible summer at the box office. The Newline/Warner Bros.

release of “Journey to the Center of the Earth” in 3D, which he starred in and served as executive producer, has grossed more than $100 million domestically. The film is the first live-action feature to be filmed entirely in 3D. More credits include “Inkheart,” “GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra,” “The Air I Breathe,” “George of the Jungle,” “Furry Vengeance,” “Extraordinary Measures,” “Looney Tunes: Back in Action,” “Bedazzled,” “Monkey Bone,” “Blast from the Past,” “Dudley Do-Right,” “Mrs. Winterbourne,” “Encino Man,” “School Ties,” “With Honors,” “Airheads,” “The Scout” and “The Twilight of the Golds.” Fraser has been in a string of some of the most successful independent films of the past decade including Lionsgate’s Academy-award-winning “Crash,” directed by Paul Haggis; Phillip Noyce’s “The Quiet American,” based on Graham Greene’s 1955 thriller of the same name; and Bill Condon’s “Gods and Monsters,” opposite Sir Ian McKellen and Lynn Redgrave.

Fraser is most well-known for his role in Universal’s “Mummy” franchise as Rick O’Connell. Stephen Sommers’ 1999 action/horror adventure was an ambitious retooling of the 1932 horror classic, with Fraser cast as an American serving in the French Foreign Legion who becomes involved with an English archaeological expedition and the ancient secrets they unleash. In 2001, Fraser reteamed with Sommers and co-star Rachel Weisz in the sequel, “The Mummy Returns.” In 2008, Universal released “Mummy 3: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor.” The franchise has grossed $1.415 billion worldwide.

Fraser made his Broadway debut, starring in the comedy “Elling,” based on the Norwegian novels by Ingvar Ambjørnsen. Fraser’s diverse theatre roster includes his appearance at the Lyric Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue in London and in the West End production of Tennessee Williams’ “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.” Fraser also received high praise for his work as the anxious writer in John Patrick Shanley’s “Four Dogs and a Bone” at the Geffen Playhouse where he co-starred with Martin Short, Parker Posey, and Elizabeth Perkins for director Lawrence Kasdan.

Fraser was born in Indianapolis and raised in Europe and Canada. He has been dedicated to honing his craft since age 12 and began attending theater when his family lived in London. He attended high school at Toronto’s Upper Canada College and received a BFA in acting from the Actor’s Conservatory, Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle.

Having originally studied Zoology at Leeds University, **HUGH WILSON (Director/Producer “Sea Lions of the Galapagos,” Producer “Guardians of the Galapagos”)** started out at the Royal Geographical Society in London helping to manage and lead expeditions all over the world. His first experience on a film shoot came when he was asked to run the field logistics for Disneynature’s “Chimpanzee.” After 14 years in the business, he now finds himself directing the latest feature in the same strand.

A formative moment in Wilson’s career came back in 2014 when he was recruited for the landmark Netflix series “Our Planet,” for which he directed shoots all over the world—from the frozen floe edge in the Canadian Arctic, to the dark heart of the Congolese rainforest.

Having previously worked on a David Attenborough series out in the Galapagos, Wilson was excited to return to the archipelago, but this time with the Disneynature narrative style in mind. The diversity of landscapes and wildlife provides the perfect backdrop to tell an intimate, character-led adventure for the whole family.

KEITH SCHOLEY (Co-Director/Producer "Sea Lions of the Galapagos," Producer "Guardians of the Galapagos") is currently a director of Silverback Films Ltd. His recent credits include series producer of the Netflix series "Life on Our Planet" and executive producer of Netflix's series "Our Planet II." He is a series producer of first season of "Our Planet," executive producer of the BBC One series "A Perfect Planet," "The Mating Game" and "The Earthshot Prize" and National Geographic's feature "Billy and Molly." He is also a director of the Netflix feature film "David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet."

Earlier credits as an independent executive producer include the Discovery Channel series "Wild Planet: North America" and "Deadly Islands," and also the producer and director of the Disneynature cinema films "African Cats," "Bears" and "Dolphin Reef."

Born and raised in East Africa, Scholey qualified as a zoologist with both a degree and PhD from Bristol University. In 1982, he worked as a wildlife stills photographer, a passion he continued throughout his television career. He also began working with the BBC Natural History Unit as a researcher and subsequently became a producer making many films for the Natural World and Wildlife on One series, as well as for special series including David Attenborough's award-winning "The Private Life of Plants." In 1993, he became editor of Wildlife on One, creating series such as the "Wildlife Specials" and "Big Cat Diary."

In 1998, Scholey was appointed the head of the Natural History Unit, and as editor in chief, he oversaw series including **David** Attenborough's "Life of Birds" and "The Life of Mammals," "Blue Planet," "Andes to Amazon," "Cousins" and "Wild Africa." In 2002, Scholey was appointed controller of specialist factual, responsible for BBC Natural History, Science, History, Arts, Business and Religious in-house productions. Natural History productions made during this time included "Springwatch," David Attenborough's "Life in the Undergrowth" and "Planet Earth." Other department major series included "Seven Industrial Wonders," "Egypt" and "Rome," and specials such as "Pompei" and "Supervolcano."

In 2006, Scholey was appointed the controller of factual production, responsible for all BBC in-house factual television production across England, and also the deputy chief creative officer for Vision Productions. In 2008, he left the BBC to pursue an independent career in natural history cinema and television production.

ROY CONLI, p.g.a. (Produced by "Sea Lions of the Galapagos," "Guardians of the Galapagos") previously produced Walt Disney Animation Studios' Oscar®-winning feature "Big Hero 6." Conli joined Disney Animation in 1993, and after assembling all the creative elements for "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and launching the project, he relocated to France to oversee the contributions of the Paris-based animation team over the two-year production schedule. Upon completion of the film, he remained in France and guided

production on the animated films “Hercules” and “Tarzan.” Conli returned to the studio in Burbank to produce “Treasure Planet” and then served as producer of Disney Animation’s 50th animated film, “Tangled,” as well as 2022’s “Strange World” and three episodes of Walt Disney Animation Studios’ first-ever animated series, “Baymax!” He is a member of the executive leadership team for Disney Animation.

Since 2014, Conli has also been a producer for Disneynature films including “Tiger,” “Polar Bear,” “Elephant,” “Dolphin Reef,” “Penguins” and “Born in China.”

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Calif., Conli studied theater at San Francisco’s prestigious American Conservancy Theater (ACT). A chance meeting with a group of creative talents from the Pasadena Playhouse led Conli to a position with the legendary theater and, ultimately, a four-year stint as director of operations. In that role, he initiated a restoration of the neglected venue and helped guide the theater to its official reopening in 1983.

Conli subsequently moved to Boston where he continued his education at Boston University and eventually earned a Master of Fine Arts degree. After graduation, he served as associate producer for the Camden Shakespeare Festival in Maine. In 1989, Conli joined the production team at the Mark Taper Forum, the leading regional theater in Los Angeles. Over the next four years he managed all special projects and new play development for the Taper, where he helped launch premieres of such award-winning plays as “Angels in America,” “Jelly’s Last Jam” and “The Kentucky Cycle.”

French composer **RAPHAELLE THIBAUT (Music by “Sea Lions of the Galapagos,” “Guardians of the Galapagos”)** has emerged as a powerful voice in film and television scoring, earning a nomination as Breakthrough Composer of the Year by the International Film Music Critics Association.

Born in France, Thibaut started learning the piano at the age of 3. Defying single-sided deafness due to ear fragility as a child, she developed a strong connection to music, drawing inspiration from composers such as Ennio Morricone, Jerry Goldsmith and François de Roubaix. She studied in Northern France and Paris, graduating from Conservatory in 2002. After a career in marketing at Google, a transformative experience at Abbey Road Studios in 2015 convinced her to pursue her true calling: film music.

Known for her emotional depth, rich orchestrations and ability to blend classical and modern textures, Thibaut has worked on many critically acclaimed films and TV series. Her work includes the Emmy® Award-winning Disney+/National Geographic docuseries “Secrets of the Whales” (2021), produced by James Cameron and narrated by Sigourney Weaver. The docuseries was then turned into a cinematic, live-in-concert symphony orchestra experience. Thibaut also composed for Netflix’s “Heart of Invictus” (2023), produced by Prince Harry and directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Orlando von Einsiedel, as well as “Timeless Heroes: Indiana Jones & Harrison Ford” (2023) for Lucasfilm and Disney+.

Thibaut also scored “Introducing, Selma Blair” (2021), which won the Special Jury Award at SXSW, “Mama’s Boy” (2022) for HBO, and “Fantastic Beasts: A Natural History” (2022) for

Warner Bros. & the BBC. Other credits include “Dogs in the Wild: Meet the Family” (2023) for BBC and PBS, and the BBC docuseries “Murder in the Pacific” (2023).

Thibaut is based in New York City, where she lives with her husband and two children.

TASH FILER (Director/Producer “Guardians of the Galapagos”) was born and raised in the city of Bristol, UK, and went on to study geography at the University of Cambridge. As a passionate storyteller, she loves to spread the word about inspirational people saving our planet. She has spent the past decade learning her craft from the best in the business at the BBC Natural History Unit and Silverback Films, in a career which has taken her all over the world.

In her spare time Filer is often outdoors: hiking, cycling and camping in all winds and weathers. When the sun goes down, you can find her in the dance studio living her best life!